

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed July 13, 2007, Applicant amends his application and requests continued examination. In this Amendment, claims 11-23, which were withdrawn from examination, are cancelled. New claims 24-33 are added so that claims 1-9 and 24-33 are now pending.

In this Amendment examined claim 1 is amended by removing numerous limitations and relocating those limitations in new claims 24-26, as discussed below in connection with those new claims. In addition, claim 1, the sole pending independent claim, is amended to describe the presence of a second card reader for reading the ID cards. That second card reader, unlike the first card reader, is located at a position that is not within the game table. An example of such a card reader is described in the patent application with respect to Figure 1 which shows card readers 6b and 8b in a restaurant and in a bar, respectively. A further card reader is illustrated without a reference character, but apparently intended to be reader 16, within a guest room of the hotel.

Further, amended claim 1 describes a system including a server that manages the quantity of money played on the game table, correlated with the personal information that has been read by the first card reader at the game table, as well as keeping track of the amount of money spent elsewhere within the establishment, also in association with the personal information obtained by reading the ID card, although this time by the second card reader. Thus, all expenditures are integrated with respect to the same ID card in the facility including a casino and multiple other services. This feature of the invention is described in the patent application in the paragraph beginning on page 24 in line 25 and continuing onto page 25.

New claims 27 and 28 relate to the description in the patent application concerning the accumulation/analysis server 68. The calculation by the server of investments and returns by game players is described at page 21, lines 19-23 of the

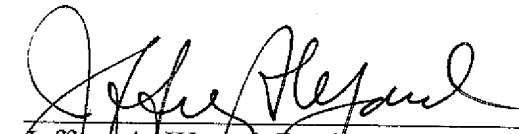
patent application. Keeping track of the bets placed and the returns obtained is described thereafter from page 21, line 23 through page 22, line 5. Figure 1 illustrates a terminal 4a, at the front desk, for displaying information from the ID card as in claim 29 and also describes, located at the front desk, the card issuing device as described in new claims 30 and 31. The chip issuing device is illustrated as element 62 in Figure 1 and the entire patent application describes the installation of the game management system in a casino as in claim 33.

In the previous Office Action, claims 1-9 were rejected as obvious over Soltys et al. (U.S. Patent 6,460,848, hereinafter Soltys) in view of Meissner et al. (U.S. Patent 5,779,545, hereinafter Meissner). This rejection is respectfully traversed as to the claims now presented.

As explained in amended claim 1, a single house card is usable with readers both at a game table and elsewhere within a hotel/casino facility and may be used to pay for, as well as to collect winnings from, gambling and also to purchase various services within the a hotel/casino facility. Both Soltys and Meissner are directed strictly to gambling functions. Those references describe tracking one or both of cards and chips used in playing a game. Soltys describes the use of a card for depositing and drawing money for engaging in a game. Meissner describes the use of coupons and consulting various computer records for determining whether sufficient cash is available for participating in a game. However, neither publication describes an integrated arrangement in which a card may be used as a source for drawing on deposits for engaging in gaming and accumulating winnings in gaming and, at the same time, may be used outside a casino in a hotel facility with other card readers to purchase services of the hotel. Accordingly, no matter how Soltys and Meissner might be combined, they could not anticipate nor establish obviousness with respect to any claim now pending. Therefore, further discussion of the previous rejection is not necessary or provided with respect to any of the other pending claims, all of which ultimately dependent from amended claim 1.

Reconsideration and allowance of all claims now pending are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeffrey A. Wyand, Registration No. 29,458
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER
700 Thirteenth Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005-3960
(202) 737-6770 (telephone)
(202) 737-6776 (facsimile)

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